

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY



STINGER SPORTS

PRESS RELEASE

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13TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S INVITATIONAL HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Concordia University will mark the 13th edition of the Women's Varsity Invitational Tournament by expanding the format to eight teams, which promises to bring an abundance of good women's hockey to Concordia.

The international tourney includes three American schools, Providence College, Cornell University and Potsdam State as well as McMaster, McGill, Université du Québec à Trois Rivières, John Abbott College and Concordia.

Rookie coach, John Marchetti takes over the helm at Providence, having inherited the strongest team in the school's seven year history. Last year's top six scorers have all returned, led by Connie Richer and Kathy Lenahan. So far this season, they have recorded wins over Boston University, Boston College, Clarkson and Potsdam with their only loss being to Northeastern 5-4 in overtime.

There is good reason for Cornell coach Bill Duthie to be optimistic as 11 letter letter winners return from last year's team, which captured the Ivy League Championship and placed third in the EAIAW championships in March. Leading the veterans are co-captains Brenda Condon and Cindy Warren. Condon has anchored the Cornell defense for the past three seasons and provides stability to the defensive group. Warren entered the season with impressive career statistics (76-107).... including 23-31 last season. Sarah Mott returns for her junior season in goal, having been named to the first team All-Ivy last year.

The Potsdam team under Coach Sullivan is coming off it's best year ever, with a 23-3 record in 1979-80. The Bears feature Cathy Lawler, the leading scorer in the United States last year, having recorded 74 goals and 45 assists.

Many new faces have been added again to the McMaster team, which expects to make a

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strong run for the Ontario Championships. Coach, Jack Kennedy will blend veterans Donna Downes, Barb Brown, Shaunalea Cope, Cindy Vinning, Maureen Carter and Jane Acton with several promising rookies.

The McGill Martlets are in a building year with only four returnees. Laura Kobayashi, Dawn Fowler and Karil Middlebrook have been the main scorers, while Lysanne Parisien, Brigitte Marchand and Hélène Charbonneau have also played well for McGill. Rookie coach, Brian Merry is looking forward to the second half of the season, when several experienced defensive players will register at McGill and add their strength to the potential that is already there.

The Université du Québec à Trois Rivières women's hockey team is in its fifth year as a Club Sport. They play approximately 15 exhibition games against Universities and other outside teams.

The Islanders from John Abbott College are a young team with only three veterans returning. The team will be counting on the leadership of Louise Duguay, Kelley Parson and Sue Flynn.

The host team, Concordia Stingers are presently in first place in league play with a 6-0-0 record. Their overall record is 12-3-1. Five promising rookies join a returning nucleus of fourteen veterans to provide head coach, Bill Doherty with a balanced squad. Led by last year's tournament All-Stars, Denise Bienvenu and Laurie McKeown the team is aiming to put up a strong showing. Add to them Corinne Corcoran (17 goals - 23 assists), Julie Healy (16 goals - 9 assists) and Kathleen Casey (11 goals - 12 assists) and you can understand their optimism.

The Tournament gets underway Friday, January 23rd with McGill meeting Potsdam at 5 p.m.; followed by Providence against John Abbott at 6:30p.m.; Cornell and Concordia at 8 p.m.; and McMaster winding up the night playing U.Q.T.R. at 9:30 p.m. The games on Saturday, January 24th are at 9, 10:30 a.m., 12 noon and 1:30 p.m.. The Consolation game takes place at 3 p.m., the Third Place Finish at 4:30 p.m. and the Championship game begins at 6 p.m.. All games will take place at the Concordia Arena, 7200 Sherbrooke St. West, Montreal.